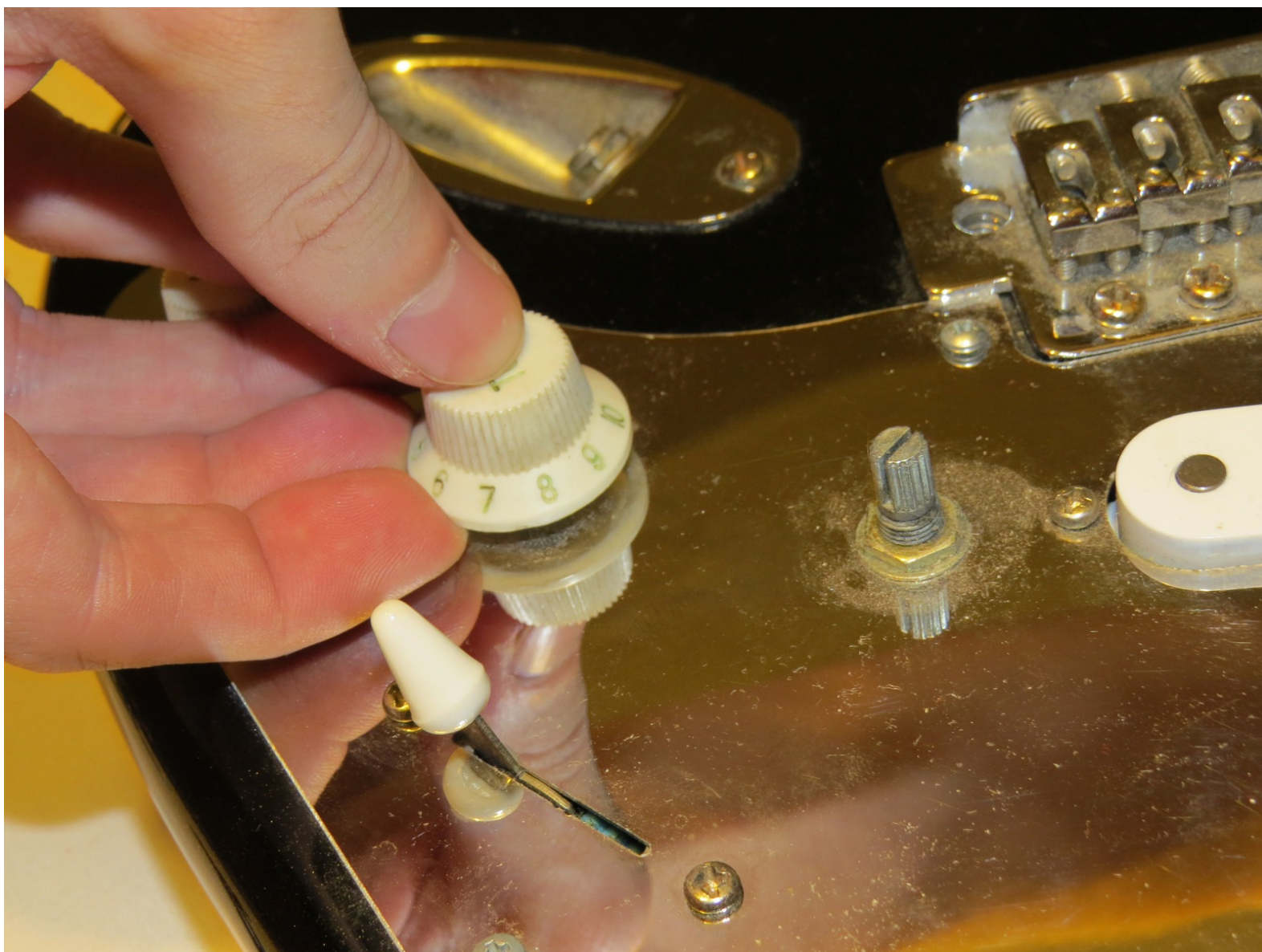




# Fender Starcaster Pickguard Removal

In order to access the electronics of the guitar, the pickguard must be removed. Follow the guide for String Replacement, up to and including Step 3, before attempting to remove the pickguard.

Written By: Christopher Hartigan



## INTRODUCTION

You may need to remove the pickguard in order to access the electronics of a guitar or change the style.

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### TOOLS:

- [Small Needle Nose Pliers](#) (1)
  - [Flush Cutter](#) (1)
  - [Screwdriver](#) (1)
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## Step 1 — Loosen the Strings



- Start by loosening the strings. This is done by turning the tuning knob until the string has lost tension.
- Repeat this for all six strings on the guitar.

## Step 2 — Remove the Strings from the Tuning Pegs

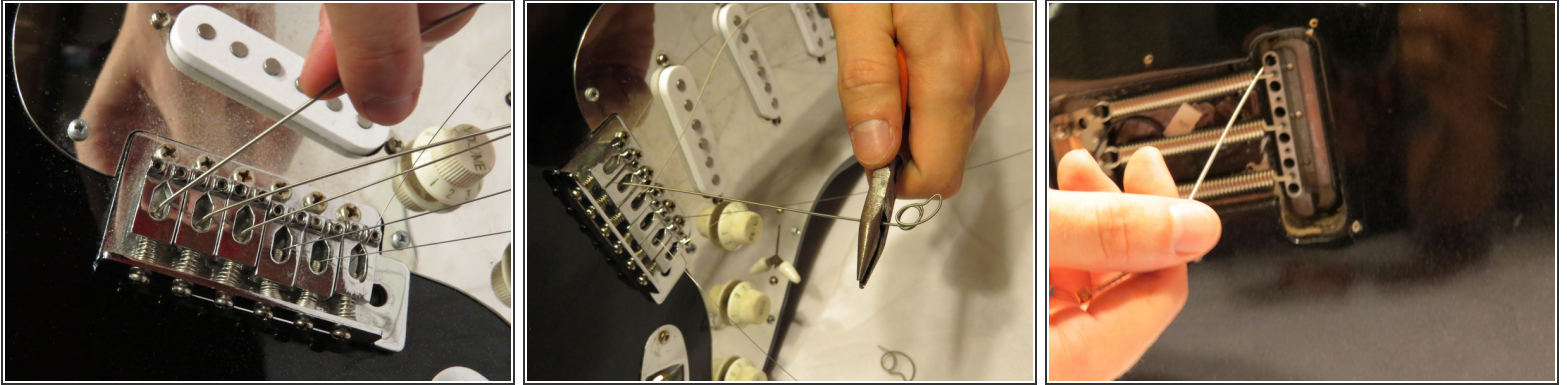


 Be mindful of the string ends. They may be sharp and could puncture your skin.

- It may be necessary to use pliers to remove string ends from the tuning peg.



### Step 3 — Remove the Strings from the Bridge



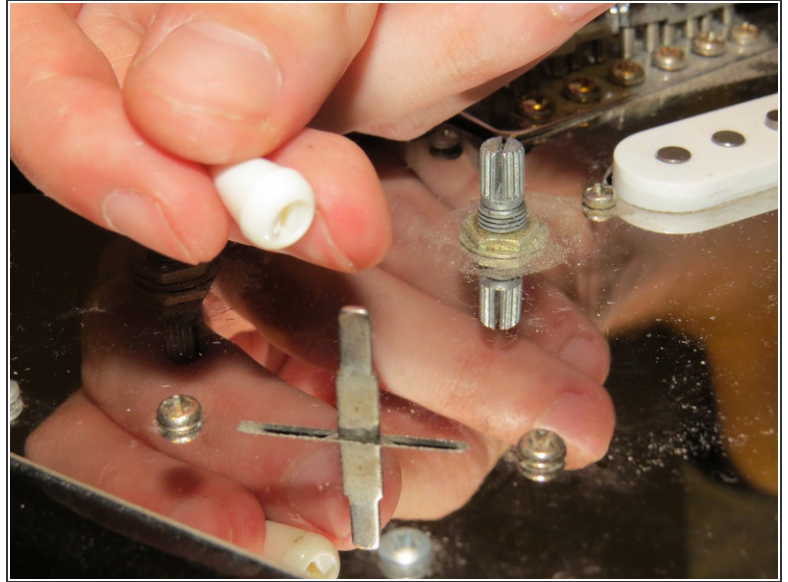
- After removing the strings from the tuning pegs, slide the strings through the bridge and out of the back of the guitar.
- If the twists in the string ends are in the way, use wire cutters to snip them off. This will allow the heavier strings to pass through the bridge easier.

### Step 4 — Remove the Knobs



- While it is not necessary to remove the potentiometer knobs in order to remove the pickguard, it is much easier to remove them while the pickguard is attached to the guitar.
- The knobs are removed simply by pulling up on them. Be mindful not to pry too much, as older components may feel stuck at first, and you do not want to break the pickguard, knob, or potentiometer.

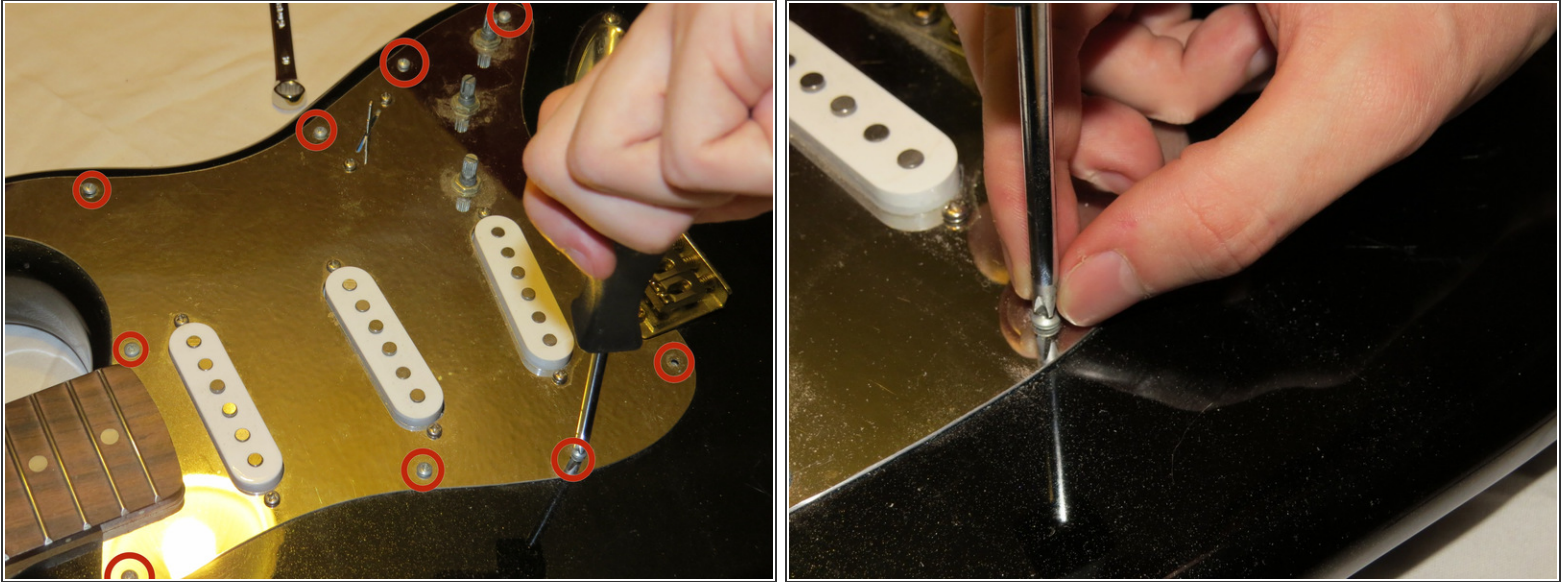
## Step 5 — Remove the Selector Switch Cap



- As with the knobs, the switch cap may be removed prior to removing the pickguard.
- Grip the cap firmly, and pull up to remove it from the switch. Be aware that the switch may move, and to be careful so that you do not break it.

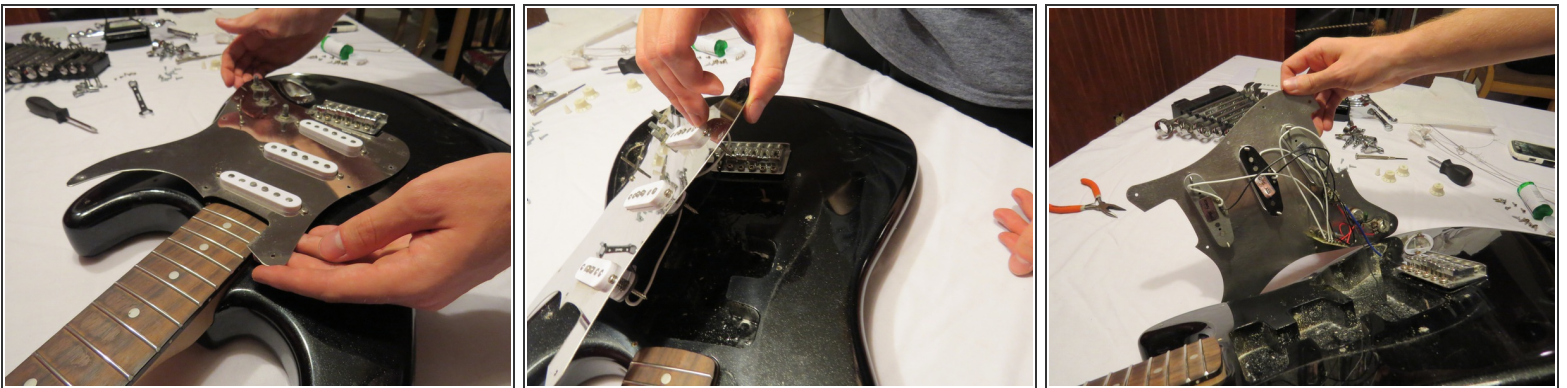


## Step 6



- Once the cap and knobs have been removed, you may begin removing the screws around the perimeter of the pickguard.
- Do not remove the screws on the electronics.

## Step 7 — Remove the Pickguard



- Gently lift up on the pickguard. With the screws removed, it should be loose, and easily pulled off of the guitar body.
- Carefully rotate the pickguard away from the guitar. Notice the electronics. There is a wire that runs through the body to the output jack.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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